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NORTHUMBERLAND

R E P O R T S

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- and the -

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

- of the -

CASTLE WARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit to you my Thirty-ninth Annual Report on the health of the district for year ending December 31st, 1940.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	82,827
Population	14,120
Number of inhabited houses	3,583
Rateable Value	£88,586
Sum represented by a penny rate	£341

Vital Statistics.

Number of births registered during the year was 178 compared with 175 in 1939.

	M.	F.
Legitimate	76	99
Illegitimate	3	-
	79	99

Birth Rate:- 12.6 per 1000 per annum compared with 13.7 in 1939.

Birth Rate for England and Wales 14.6 per 1000 per annum.

Still Births.

	M.	F.
Legitimate	5	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total:	5	2

Rate per 1000 Total (Live and Still) 13.1 per 1000 per annum, compared with 14.2 per 1000 per annum in 1939.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 118, the same as in 1939.

Death Rate:- 8.3 per 1000 per annum compared with 8.8 per 1000 per annum in 1939.

The death rate for England and Wales in 1940 is 14.3 per 1000 per annum.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and other Puerperal Causes.

There were no deaths under this heading.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths under one year was 6, the same as in 1939.

	M.	F.
Legitimate	2	4
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total:	2	4

Death Rate of all Infants under one year of age per 1000 Live Births was 33.7, the same as in 1939.

Death Rate for England and Wales for 1940 was 55.

Deaths from Cancer.

During the year there have been seventeen deaths from this cause, compared with twenty-one in 1939.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... ...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	Nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (A) Medical. - Part time Medical Officer of Health.
(B) Others. - Sanitary Inspector with Assistant both having certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute.
Also act as Inspectors of Dairies and Cowsheds, Meat Inspector and the carrying out of the Housing Scheme under the Housing Acts.

2. Laboratory Facilities.
The examination or analysis of Clinical Material (sputum, swabs, etc.) and milk is under the control of the County Council.

3. Nursing in the Home:-
(A) General. - Most of the district is supplied with nurses having the C.M.B. qualification and supplied by the County Nursing Association, the funds being provided by voluntary contributions, with the addition in some instances of small fees. In some cases grants are made by the Ministry of Health.
Your Council have no authority over this.

(B) Infectious Diseases. - No special nursing is available.

4. Hospitals:-
(A) Infectious Disease. - Newburn, Gosforth and Castle Ward Joint Hospital - 32 beds - situated at Lemington.
(B) Smallpox.- None at present, but a Joint Hospital is being erected at Earsdon.
(C) Tuberculosis. - Provided by the Northumberland County Council, also the Children's Sanatorium at Stannington.
(D) General Medical and Surgical. - Treated in the various hospitals in Newcastle-on-Tyne.
(E) Maternity. - Where necessary in Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, except those in receipt of relief or destitute, who are admitted to the Poor Law Institution, Tynemouth.

5. Ambulance Facilities:-
(1) Infectious Cases. - Removed by respective hospital authorities.
(2) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. - No facilities provided by your Council, the cases being removed by ambulances provided by collieries or privately.

6. Clinics and Treatment Centres:-
Infant Welfare Centres at Dinnington Colliery and Ponteland and Dinnington Village under the control of the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Infectious Diseases have been notified during the year.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	23	21	Nil
Diphtheria	18	16	Nil
Paratyphiod	3	3	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	9	Nil	3
Erysipelas.	5	Nil	Nil
Dysentery...	1	1	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	5	5	1
TOTAL:	66	46	4

In addition, 48 cases of Measles were notified during the year.

Omitting Measles, 66 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, compared with 121 in 1939.

Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-three cases notifed, compared with fifty-one in 1939.

Diphtheria.

Of the eighteen cases notified, eleven occurred at Stannington Sanatorium, two at Cheeseburn Grange, and two at Cottage Homes, Ponte--land, all of these being institutional.

Tuberculosis.

During the year eleven cases of Tuberculosis have been notified, six being due to Pulmonary and five to Non-Pulmonary. There were five deaths from this cause.

School Closure.

No schools have been closed during the year on account of Infectious Disease.

Bacteriological Examinations.

23	Sputa for Bacillus Tuberculosis	3 positive.
429	Swabs for Diphtheria	38 "
6	Blood for Agglutination	3
314	Miscellaneous (Faeces, Urine, etc.) ...	
Total: 772	Total:	44

FACTORIES.

The various Factories and Workshops have been inspected during the year.

There are no underground bake-houses, and no outworkers in the district.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) WILLMOT HOLMES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

AUGUST 1st, 1941.

THE REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR, 1940.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your information my second annual report on the Sanitary Department of the Council.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK:

Owing to the continued abnormal conditions due to the War and the difficulties arising therefrom no special or extensive programmes of housing inspections for clearance or demolition schemes have been undertaken during the year.

A regular and attentive oversight of the district has been maintained giving every attention to all matters likely to affect the health or welfare of the public.

The effecting of repairs to property has been exceedingly difficult owing to the scarcity of labour and materials but much has been accomplished by mutual effort on both sides particularly with regard to the most urgent repairs.

HOUSING:

During the year plans for seven houses were submitted for approval, of these five were permanent constructions and two semi-permanent; 19 houses were completed and occupied.

The fourteen houses under construction by the Council at Hazlerigg were completed and occupied during the year and a further two cottages improved under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS:

In the early part of the year the Council appointed a Committee to inspect and report upon the various sewage disposal works throughout the district, particularly as to the repairs and renewals required, and the question of attendants for the maintenance and cleansing of the works.

After a very careful and thorough inspection the Committee recommended to the Council that the district be formed into two separate areas, that an attendant be appointed for each, and that such extra manual labour be provided as was necessary to clean up and put the works and adjoining lands into proper order.

They also recommended that the older works be overhauled and repaired in their order of need. The whole of the works have been cleaned up generally. The works at Dinnington Colliery have been thoroughly overhauled, the beds cleaned, the distributers repaired and renewed where necessary.

An extra tank, new tipplers, beds and sludge pits formed at Dinnington Village West works, the remainder are receiving attention as labour and materials permit.

SEWERAGE:

The Sewers throughout the Council's area continue to function satisfactorily, the main sewer at Dinnington Colliery was repaired and all the supporting piers renewed or repaired where necessary. With the additional attendants it is now possible to give better attention to regular cleansing and flushing of all sewers.

WATER SUPPLIES.

There were no major extensions of the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company's Mains during the year.

The Council's water schemes at Heddon, Whalton, and Stamford--ham continue to function satisfactorily. At Kirkheaton the distri--buting pipes in the village have become silted up; the renewal of these pipes is under consideration. A new engine and pump were fixed at Heddon and the piping re-arranged in order that the two sets of pumps and engines would be worked alternatively.

The Council did have under consideration the question of providing storage and a piped system in the village of Ingoe but this was deferred owing to the War time conditions.

During the year there have been several samples of water taken for Bacteriological examination for the Military Authorities, the Ministry of Health, and for general purposes.

At Ogle village the owner of the land and property is putting down a new bore hole to replace the present water supply which is taken from the Shining Pool Burn and in wet weather is liable to pollution.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 112 registered cowkeepers in the district, the number of cows kept being approximately 2,400.

During the year there have been numerous reports of unclean milk received. Considerable attention has been given to this matter. Sampling for Bacteriological examination is carried out and the results notified to the producer, and every effort made to bring to the notice of all concerned the need for more care and attention in the production and handling of all milk.

Whilst many of the cow-sheds are below the suggested standards, the War time difficulties preclude the carrying out of any extensive schemes of improvement. The cowkeepers complain of the shortage of labour and other difficulties due to the present emergency.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are no private slaughter houses in use at present but the meat sent into the district under the Ministry of Food Pool is inspected at regular periods.

SCAVENGING.

There have been no extensions of the area scavenged during the year; all the work is done by Contract and has been fairly well done. The number of contractors available for this work is now very limited.

SALVAGE.

At the request of the Ministry of Supply, the Council put a scheme of salvage of waste material in hand; owing to certain difficulties, this could not be carried out in conjunction with the scavenging and a scheme of village dumps was tried.

Owing to the scattered nature of the area the dumps were not a success and only in a few of the villages was there any definite effort made to support the scheme. After careful consideration, the Council purchased two wagons and instituted a regular house to house collection. The value of the materials collected does not meet the cost of collection.

REPAIR OF WAR DAMAGE.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, a scheme for the repair of War Damage was organised among the local builders, estates, and Colliery Companies for the various parts of the district. In conjunction with the County Architect a certain quantity of materials was stocked for these repairs.

A considerable amount of time has been taken up with A.R.P., Fire Brigade and Civil Defence work, in addition to dealing with the ever increasing number of circulars and orders together with the preparation of returns and forms required by various departments.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) J, BOLTON.

JULY, 1941.